

10/528837  
JG06 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 MAR 2005

PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0095/023001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akira YAMAUCHI                      Art Unit:  
Application No.: filed concurrently              Examiner:  
Title: JOINING APPARATUS  
International Application No.: PCT/JP2003/012205  
International Filing Date              : September 25, 2003  
Priority Date                              : September 26, 2002  
U.S. Filing Date                         : March 23, 2005

**Mail Stop PCT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of good faith and candor as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicant requests that the references cited on attached form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

Enclosed also please find a copy of the International Search Report citing these references. The relevance of these references can be seen from the International Search Report. The English abstracts for the Japanese references are also enclosed.

Please note that enclosed is a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,218,736 which is the English language counterpart for Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-77569.

Please also note that Japanese Patent No. 2791429 is discussed on page 1 of the specification.

Please also note that the English language translations of Japanese Application Publications are also enclosed. Please also note that these English translations are machine translations provided by the Japan Patent Office and the Japan Patent Office states that the translations may not precisely reflect the original Japanese text.

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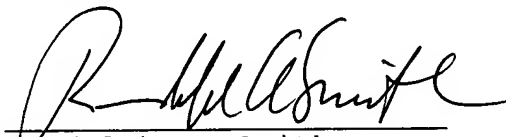
Information Disclosure Statement  
Applicant: Akira YAMAUCHI  
Title: JOINING APPARATUS  
Filing Date: March 23, 2005  
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This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,



Randolph A. Smith  
Reg. No. 32,548

Date: March 23, 2005

**SMITH PATENT OFFICE**

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20006-3433  
Telephone: 202/530-5900  
Facsimile: 202/530-5902  
Yamauchi032305

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number Filed **10/528837**

Filing Date March 23, 2005

Applicant Akira YAMAUCHI

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number 0095/023001

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	NAME	DATE MM-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		6,218,736		YAGI et al.	04/2001	
		2001-0001428		YAGI et al.	05/2001	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			NAME	DATE MM-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP	4-341554	A	HORINO et al.	11/1992		X
		JP	5-235061	A	NISHIKAWA et al.	09/1993		X
		JP	6-338535	A	SHIMAZU	12/1994		X
		JP	2791429	B	TAKAGI et al.	06/1998		X
		JP	10-321677	A	SAKAMI	12/1998		X
		JP	11-340614	A	ISHIKAWA et al.	12/1999		X
		JP	2000-77569	A	YAGI et al.	03/2000		Abstract
		JP	2001-237213	A	FUKUDA et al.	08/2001		X
		JP	3207506	B	NISHIKAWA et al.	09/2001		X

### EXAMINER

### DATE CONSIDERED

\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.

<sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

